

## **AK Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Salmon Set Gillnet Fishery**

**Fishing gear type:** Gillnet

**Current category:** Category II\*

**Basis for current classification on the LOF:** Based on analogy to other Category II AK set gillnet fisheries.

**Current list of marine mammal species/stocks injured/killed:** Harbor porpoise, Bering Sea; Steller sea lion, Western U.S.

**Estimated number of current participants:** 115

**Take Reduction Teams/Plans that affect this fishery:** None.

**Year added to the LOF:** 1996

**Category when originally listed:** Category II

**Basis for original classification on the LOF:** This fishery was categorized as a Category II based on analogy with other Category II AK set gillnet fisheries, and due to inadequate observer coverage and logbook data (which likely represented an underestimate of the serious injury and mortality levels). Observer coverage was inadequate to determine serious injury and mortality levels across all fisheries, but available data suggested that serious injury and mortality might have been more than 10% of the Potential Biological Removal (PBR) level for each stock with which the fishery interacted. Data suggested that levels of mortality and serious injury would be similar to those in other set gillnet fisheries which interact with similar marine mammals species, especially harbor porpoise.

**Estimated number of participants when originally listed:** 116

**Past names, if any:** AK Peninsula/Aleutian Island salmon set gillnet (until 1999).

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**Gear description/method for fishing:** This fishery uses set gillnet with the gear set every two hours during the day and night. The gear is set with continuous soak times during the opener<sup>†</sup>.

**Target species:** Salmon.

**Spatial/temporal distribution of effort:** This fishery generally operates from June 18 to mid-August in two districts north of the AK Peninsula (Northern and Northwestern) and four districts south of the AK Peninsula (Unimak, Southwestern, Southcentral, and Southeastern). Set gillnet fishing effort also occurs off Atka and Amelia Islands.

**Levels of observer coverage each year<sup>‡</sup>:** This fishery has not been observed by the Alaska Marine Mammal Observer Program.

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\* The fishery is classified by analogy to other gear types or fisheries that are known to cause mortality or serious injury of marine mammals.

<sup>†</sup> Salmon may only be fished commercially during periods known as openers established by the AK Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) in-season. Openers may last days or weeks. The ADFG posts weekly notices of fishing openers and announces the openers on regular radio channels. Fishing periods are often extended by emergency order during the last 24 hours of the opener.

<sup>‡</sup> Observer coverage levels include the latest information reported in the most current final Stock Assessment Reports (SAR).

**Management and regulations:** This fishery is managed by the AK Department of Fish and Game as a limited entry fishery with gear restrictions on the mesh and net size, and area closures.

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#### **History of Changes on the LOF**

2009 LOF: Estimated number of participants updated from 120 to 115.

2006 LOF: Added a superscript “2” in Table 1 after this fishery, indicating that this fishery is classified by analogy.

2001 LOF: Estimated number of participants updated from 110 to 116.

1999 LOF:

- Renamed the fishery from “AK Peninsula/Aleutian Island salmon set gillnet” to "Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands salmon set gillnet" to add the missing “s” on “Islands”.
- Estimated number of participants updated from 109 to 110.

1998 LOF:

- The stock of harbor porpoise on the list of species/stocks killed/injured in this fishery was changed from “AK” to “Bering Sea.”
- Estimated number of participants updated from 116 to 109.